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**Re: Information request (ref: 18881014)**

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**Owen Boswarva** <owen.boswarva@gmail.com>

26 August 2022 at 12:21

To: Despatch Box &lt;mhclgcorrespondence@communities.gov.uk&gt;

Dear Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities FOI Team,

Thank you for your reply to my information request, your ref 18881014. I am satisfied with the information provided in response to points 1-3 of my request.

However, I would like to request an internal review of DLUHC's response to points 4-6 of my request. I do not think DLUHC's application of the exemption in section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act is correct.

I have inferred from your response that DLUHC holds information in scope of each of my points 4-6.

My working assumption is that all or most of that information will have been produced shortly after the end of the consultation period in 2016, and will now be at least several years old.

I also assume that the Government does not intend to publish an outcome and response to the consultation, given that more than six years has passed since the consultation closed.

There have been two changes of Government since the consultation closed.

I doubt there is any live policy process to protect. There have been no signs from the current Government that it intends to revive the proposals in the consultation or further develop the Local Government Transparency Code. Were the Government to do so, I think it is unlikely that the formulation and development of policy in this area would rely significantly on analysis of responses to the 2016 consultation, or on other information within scope of my information request.

Given the timing of my request, it is implausible that release of the information I have requested has any significant potential to damage policymaking. I cannot see that the public interest in maintaining the section 35(1)(a) exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Owen Boswarva

Contact details

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address: [REDACTED]

On Tue, 23 Aug 2022 at 11:00, Despatch Box <mhclgcorrespondence@communities.gov.uk> wrote:

 Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Our reference: 18881014  
Information request

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Dear Mr Boswarva,

Thank you for your request for information concerning:

*I would like to make a new information request. This request also relates to DCLG's 2016 consultation 'Strengthening Local Government Transparency: Consultation on changes to the Local Government Transparency Code 2015'.*

*Please provide the following information:*

- 1. The number of responses received to the consultation.*
- 2. A list of organisations that submitted responses to the consultation.*
- 3. A copy of any response received from the Cabinet Office.  
Please also provide, if held:*
- 4. Any breakdown or analysis of responses to the questions in the consultation.*
- 5. The most recent unpublished version or draft of any consultation outcome or Government response to the consultation.*
- 6. Any correspondence, meeting minutes, or other record that relates to the decision not to publish the outcome of the consultation.*

Unfortunately we are unable to provide all of this information. Please find attached our formal response which sets out the reasons for this, as well as the information that we are able to provide.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities FOI Team

**NOTE: Please do not edit the subject line when replying to this email.**